

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

May 10, 2011

Since the days of the American Revolution Jewish Soldiers and clergy have bravely served our country with honor and pride.

There are many examples of selfless sacrifice of Jewish Chaplains who have served in our Armed Forces. For example, on February 3, 1943 Germans torpedoes hit and sank the USS Dorchester with 960 soldiers and civilian workers aboard off the coast of Greenland. Among those on board were four chaplains—two Protestants, a Catholic, and a Jew, Rabbi Alexander Goode. All four chaplains died together after giving up their lifejackets to save others on board. Yet only three of these fallen heroes are memorialized on Chaplain's Hill at Arlington National Cemetery. In fact, 242 Christian military chaplains who perished while on active duty are memorialized at Arlington, however none of the 13 Jewish chaplains who have perished on Active Duty have received the same honor.

The Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplain's Council has spearheaded an effort to establish a memorial honoring Jewish Chaplains alongside fellow military chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed memorial has already been designed and all funding has been privately raised, but Congressional approval is needed to move this project forward.

H. Con Res 12 and S. Con Res 4 sponsored by Rep Anthony Weiner and Senator Charles Schumer calls for the establishment of a new monument to honor Jewish chaplains who perished on Active Duty. This memorial will be similar in size and style to the existing three honoring Christian chaplains, and will be erected at Arlington's "Chaplain's Hill."

This action to establish this new memorial is a fitting and long overdue tribute to honor the bravery, valor and memory of Jewish chaplains.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors send letters to Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer and all members of the California Congressional delegation urging support of H. Con. Res 12 and S. Con. Res 4 to establish a memorial for Jewish Chaplains in our Armed Forces killed on Active Duty.

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